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Book Binding for Summer Afternoons

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Book Binding for Summer Afternoons

By
Marvel Secor

FROM the old Egyptian papyrus roll, we have come thru various stages of the scroll, the Japanese book and the book with a single signature, to the bound volume of today with rounded backs and stiff covers. Some of the old books which developed during this evolution had mottled covers which gave them color and distinction. This old type is now being "revived" and the same effect can be produced in little booklets which can easily be made at home.

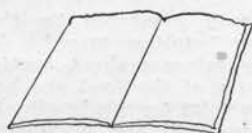
In a class in handicraft at Iowa State College books of this kind are made for choice poems. When neatly lettered they are attractive and will be treasured because they are hand made and original in design.

The materials needed to make a book of this type are: twenty-four double sheets of writing paper, linen thread, a darning needle, strips of cloth about four inches wide, book binder's linen, a piece of narrow tape, two pieces of cloth board a little wider than the paper for the cover, plain paper for the mottled cover and good smooth paste.

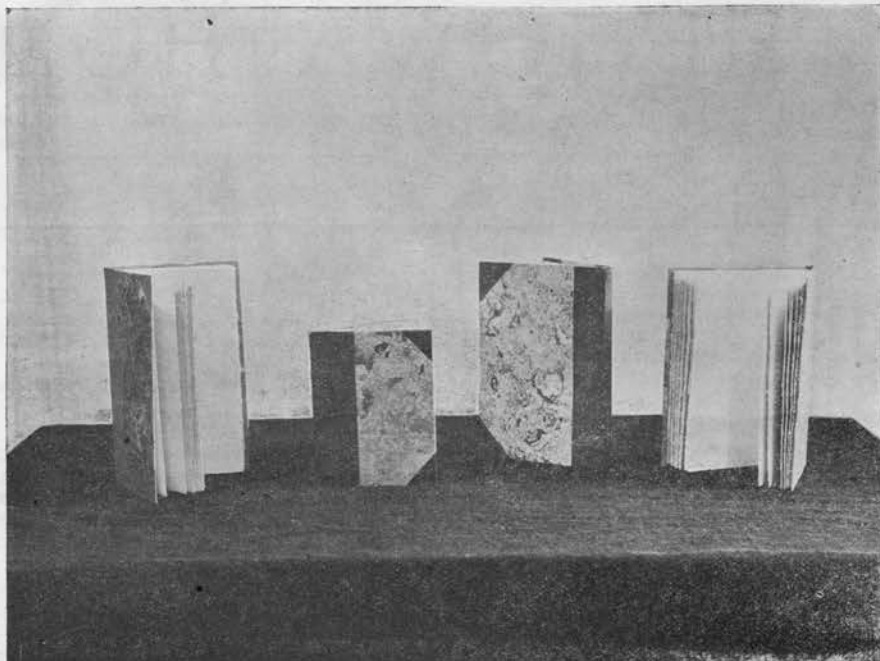
First we will sew the pages together, then color the paper for the cover, and finally put the cover on the book. The sheets of writing paper should be arranged in a pile in pairs, one sheet inside of another. Place the pages together, folded edge toward you, and mark a pencil line about half an inch from each end and divide the remainder of the space into three equal parts and mark with a



FIG. 1. SIGNATURES
TIED TOGETHER
ON TAPES



ONE SIGNATURE - 4 PAGES



These books will be treasured because they are hand-made.

double line about one-fourth of an inch apart as in figure 1. Now pierce holes thru every pair of pages with the needle where the paper is marked, making signatures of four pages each.

Thread the needle and run it in the first hole from the right, from the outside in, then run it out the next hole. Place one of the three inch strips of narrow tape on this place and sew over it to the center of the book. The process of sewing is as follows: sew into the first signature through the hole nearest the right end, go to the next hole, to the outside, around first tape to the next hole; sew into the signature on to the next hole, to the outside, around the second tape to the last hole. Place the second signature on top of the first and sew as before with reversed direction. On either end a knot is tied when the needle reaches the first hole to strengthen the union of the signatures, and knots are also made every fourth time over the tapes. Pull the thread tight enough to hold the pages firmly in place, but be careful not to tear the paper. The sewing is continued until all of the pages are in place, the direction of the sewing being reversed each time. A final knot is tied at the end and we are now ready

to make the mottled paper.

To color the paper, fill a low pan with cold water, mix oil paints in the desired colors with turpentine until they are thin enough to flick from the paint brush onto the water. Any color scheme may be used to look well with the book binder's linen. The paint will float and the colors may be whirled into rhythmic lines by blowing upon the water. The paper to be used is cut the size of the pan and laid on the water a few seconds until the paper becomes moist, then it is quickly raised by one end so that the paint will adhere to it and the water will run off. If left in the water too long, the paint will be washed from the paper.

While the mottled paper is drying, cut the cover boards about one-fourth inch wider and longer than the bound book. five inches wide for the back of the book. Have plenty of newspapers on the table to protect your work as it is being pasted. Measure off on the linen a center line lengthwise of the material and mark the width to be allowed for the thickness of the book. Paste the cover boards to the lines marked on the book binder's linen as in figure 3, and cut and paste on squares with mitered corners for the corners of the book.

Take the mottled paper made for the cover and cut it by a pattern made to fit over the binder's linen at the back and corners as in the diagram. The flaps are pasted to the cover boards at either end and at the sides.

A piece of cloth is now prepared to hold the cover on the book. It is measured and cut one-half inch shorter than the length of the book, pasted well on the back of the book, covering the tapes. The long ends of the tapes are fastened to the cover boards on the inside, with the cloth pasted over them.

Paste the end sheets of the book to the inside of the cover, allowing for opening the book, which is now ready to be pressed under a weight until the paste is dry. The edges of the leaves may be tinted with water color to match the cover if desired.

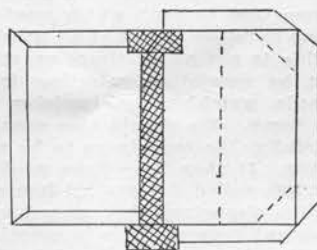


FIG. 2. PAPER AND BOOK
BINDER'S LINEN PASTED
TO COVER BOARDS -
LAPS TURNED INSIDE